(*e*) The Government have decided to retain the office of Curator until the end of the current year. The question of its further continuance will be considered in due course.

(*f*) The savings in a full year would be about Rs. 39,300.

Mr. M. A. Manikkavelu Nayakar:—" With reference to the answer to clause (*e*) of the question, may I know whether that question was considered by the Retrenchment Committee? "

The hon. Mr. H. G. Stokes:—" The Retrenchment Committee has not examined the Record Office."

Mr. M. A. Manikkavelu Nayakar:—" Will they be considering it, Sir? "

The hon. Mr. H. G. Stokes:—" No doubt, they will."

Pensions

Grant of an extra sum of Rs. 2 for pensioners.

* 265 *Q.*—Mr. M. A. Manikkavelu Nayakar: Will the hon. the Member for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the civil pensioners were granted an extra sum of Rs. 2 per head from the year 1921;

(*b*) to which class of pensioners such extra amount was allowed, whether to those drawing a pension of less than Rs. 20 per month or even to those who drew more than Rs. 20 per month;

(*c*) why this extra sum of Rs. 2 per head per month was cancelled from after February 1931; and

(*d*) whether the Government propose to reconsider their order in the case of all pensioners drawing less than Rs. 10?

A.—(*a*) & (*b*) The details[a] of the scheme relating to the grant of temporary increases to pensioners in receipt of pensions up to Rs. 45 a month which was sanctioned at first temporarily for three years from 1st November 1920 are given in the appendix.

(*c*) The question of varying or abolishing the temporary increases was considered in 1926, and the Government sanctioned the continuance of the increases in the case of pensioners in receipt of a superior pension subject to the condition that they would be abolished if the cost of living index figure as given in the *Bombay Labour Gazette* published by the Labour Office, Secretariat, Bombay, remained below 125 points for three consecutive months. As the cost of living index figure fell below 125 points and remained so for three consecutive months orders were issued discontinuing with effect from 1st March 1931 the grant of increases to pensioners in receipt of a superior pension. In 1926 the addition given to inferior pensions was made permanent and was unaffected by the order of 1931.

(*d*) No.

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[a] Printed as Appendix VIII on page 143 infra.